

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, 15-17, and 19-70 are pending prior to entering this amendment. The examiner allows claims 7 and 15-17, and objects to claims 20-23, 25, 28-30, 32, 35-37, 39, 42-44, 46, 49-51, 53, and 70 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The examiner withdraws claims 54-69 from consideration as being directed to a constructively non-elected invention. The examiner rejects claims 1, 19, 24, 26, 27, 31, 33, 34, 38, 40, 41, 45, 47, 48 and 52 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Maeda (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0021647). Applicants amend claims 1, 20, 22-23, 25-26, 28, 30, 32, 33, 35, 37, 39-40, 42, 44, 46-47, 49, 51, 53, and 70, and cancel claims 21, 29, 36, 43, 50, and 54-69. Claims 1, 7, 15-17, 19-20, 22-28, 30-35, 37-42, 44-49, 51-53, and 70 remain after entering this amendment. Applicants add no new matter and request reconsideration.

Withdrawn Claims from Consideration

Applicants cancel claims 54-69, which the examiner withdrew from consideration as being directed to a constructively non-elected invention.

Allowable Claims

Applicants thank Examiner Tran for allowing claims 7 and 15-17.

The examiner objects to claims 20-23, 25, 28-30, 32, 35-37, 39, 42-44, 46, 49-51, 53, and 70 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants elect to rewrite claims 20, 25, 28, 32, 35, 39, 42, 46, 49, 53, and 70 into independent form by including the limitations of their corresponding base claims and any intervening claims. Applicants further elect to amend independent claims 1, 26, 33, 40, and 47 to include the limitations of allowable dependent claims 21, 29, 36, 43, 50, respectively, which are now canceled. Claims 1, 7, 15-17, 19-20, 22-28, 30-35, 37-42, 44-49, 51-53, and 70, therefore, are in condition for the examiner's allowance.

Claim Rejections - §102

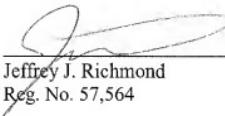
Applicants rewrite claims 20, 25, 28, 32, 35, 39, 42, 46, 49, 53, and 70 into independent form and amend 1, 26, 33, 40, and 47 to include the limitations of allowable dependent claims 21, 29, 36, 43, 50, which obviate the examiner's rejections. Applicants further amend claims 22-23, 30, 37, 44, and 51 to depend directly from newly-rewritten independent claims 1, 26, 33, 40, and 47, respectively, as they previously depended from intervening claims 21, 29, 36, 43, and 50 that were canceled in conjunction with the rewriting of the claims into independent form. Applicants therefore respectfully request the examiner withdraw these rejections and allow claims 1, 7, 15-17, 19-20, 22-28, 30-35, 37-42, 44-49, 51-53, and 70 to issue.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of all claims as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.



Jeffrey J. Richmond
Reg. No. 57,564

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.
210 SW Morrison Street, Suite 400
Portland, OR 97204
503-222-3613
Customer No. 20575